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**SERVING STUDENTS
LEARNING ENGLISH
AS A SECOND LANGUAGE:
A GUIDE FOR
VERMONT EDUCATORS**

ESL ♦ ESL ♦ ESL ♦ ESL ♦ ESL ♦ ESL ♦ ESL

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MESSAGE FROM RICHARD P. MILLS, COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

I am pleased to introduce *Serving Students Learning English as a Second Language* to the Vermont education community. Over the past ten years, the linguistic minority population in Vermont grew at almost four times the population of the rest of the State. As a result, school districts across the State are experiencing an increase in students who are in need of English as Second Language (ESL) services. In 1970, the United States Department of Education issued a Memorandum to all school districts which stated (in part):

Where inability to speak and understand the English language excludes national origin minority-group children from effective participation in the educational program offered by a school district, the district must take affirmative steps to rectify the language deficiency in order to open its instructional program to these students.

The purpose of this guide is to provide school districts with the resources necessary to set up ESL programs that will provide equal educational opportunities to these students. The guide covers Legal Requirements, Second Language Acquisition and Cultural Diversity, Program Planning and Development, Identification, Screening, Assessment, Placement and Provision of Appropriate Services, and Monitoring and Guiding Student Progress and Program Effectiveness. I think you will find it to be an invaluable resource as we work together to provide all Vermont students with high skills--no exceptions, no excuses.

Letter Not Available

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INTRODUCTION

Awareness is growing among educators in Vermont that students learning English as a Second Language (ESL) bring to schools diverse linguistic, cultural, educational, and personal experiences and, therefore, open a window for us into other parts of the world. As more teachers, administrators, and other educators experience firsthand what it means to teach ESL students, we also discover what these students can teach us. More than 1600 students in Vermont schools have a primary (first acquired) or home language other than English. Over fifty different language groups and cultures, from Czech to Chinese, are represented in our schools. Whether your school has one student or one hundred, a staff that supports a full educational program for ESL students can make a difference in a child's life--now and for years to come. In turn, ESL students enrich the classroom and school environment with their uniqueness and model linguistic and cultural skills we all need in an increasingly multicultural society.

If you have ever had ESL students in your classroom or school, you know the challenge of providing them a high quality education. This guide was written with people like you in mind! It is also written for the dozens of people who will be involved in educating ESL students for the first time this year. The Vermont Department of Education's commitment to seeing that ESL students statewide have equal access to meaningful education has also been a strong motivating force behind this guide.

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the Lau decision, the landmark Supreme Court ruling which for the first time defined the right of language minority students to meaningful education. This guide is organized according to a set of legally required obligations, which grew out of a genuine public concern that education be equally available to *all* children. Readers can follow Steps One through Five and find specific information relating to each requirement.

In addition to stating legal requirements, this guide is designed to:

- Familiarize district or school-based teams with major language, cultural, and educational issues of ESL students in Vermont;
- Highlight resources for program development including articles and lists of organizations and reference materials;
- Include reproducible forms which teams can use to gather valuable student information and to create effective educational programs;
- Provide interactive guides as hands-on tools for ESL Coordination Teams, (i.e., Flowchart and Guide for Writing a Policy and Procedures).

Finally, it is not expected that this guide will answer every question or concern. It is meant to stimulate discussion about how we as individuals, schools, state organizations, and communities can work together to discover new and better ways to educate ESL students. Part of this discovery is opening our hearts, our minds and our classrooms to the many ways we can learn from them.

As you work with ESL students in your classrooms using this guide, you will no doubt discover ways to improve it. Your comments and suggestions are appreciated and will assist in updates and revisions. The Language and Cultural Affairs Program staff looks forward to working with your school/district as a resource in designing quality educational services for ESL students.

Jim McCobb

COMMON ACRONYMS

ESL TERMS

BICS	Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills
CALP	Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency
ESL	English as a Second Language
ESOL	English to Speakers of Other Languages
FEP	Fluent English Proficiency
L1	Primary (First Acquired) Language
L2	Second Language
LEP	Limited English Proficiency
NELB	Non-English Language Background
NEP	Non-English Proficiency
TEP	Transitional English Proficiency

ORGANIZATIONS

CCSSO	Council of Chief State School Officers
CHIME	Clearinghouse for Immigrant Education
EAC-EAST	Evaluation Assistance Center/East
LCAP	Language and Cultural Affairs Program
LEA	Local Education Agency
META	Multicultural Education, Training and Advocacy
MRC	Multifunctional Resource Center (New England)
NAAPAE	National Association of Asian and Pacific American Education
NABE	National Association for Bilingual Education
NCAS	National Coalition of Advocates for Students
NCBE	National Clearinghouse for Bilingual Education
NCRCDSSL	National Center for Research on Cultural Diversity and Second Language Learning
NECME	Northeast Consortium for Multicultural Education
NMCI	National Multicultural Institute
NNETESOL	Northern New England Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages
OCR	Office for Civil Rights
SDE	State Department of Education
TESOL	Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages

ESL TESTS

IPT	Idea Proficiency Test
LAB	Language Assessment Battery
LAS	Language Assessment Scales
SLEP	Secondary Level English Proficiency Test